

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for selecting one protocol from among a plurality of protocols to establish communication between two computers, where the first computer has an object and the second computer has an object-handle associated with the object, and where the object-handle identifies the plurality of protocols, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a. generating ~~bids~~ bid values for one or more protocols among the plurality of protocols identified by the object-handle upon evoking on the second computer the object located on the first computer;
 - b. dynamically arranging the ~~bids~~ bid values in a sequence corresponding to their relative values so as to indicate the relative preference among the protocols; and
 - c. parsing the arranged ~~bids in a prescribed manner to thereby~~ bid values to select a protocol that is the highest preference according to the sequence and is effective in establishing the communication.
2. (currently amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the generating step further comprises the steps of:
 - a. referencing a predefined configuration ~~predefined and that is~~ associated with the second computer;
 - b. for each protocol among the plurality of protocols, determining whether the protocol qualifies according to the ~~referenced~~ configuration; and
 - c. when the protocol ~~is determined to qualify~~ qualifies, setting the a bid value for the protocol equal to a value determined according to the ~~referenced~~ configuration.

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3. (currently amended) The method as in claim 2, wherein the configuration includes a default value associated with a protocol, and the generating step further comprises the step of setting the bid value for the protocol equal to the default value on the condition that no other value for the bid is determined.
4. (currently amended) The method as in claim 2, wherein the configuration includes at least one property ~~one or more properties each~~ relating to one or more protocols among the plurality of protocols, wherein the each property has an enabled and disabled state, and wherein the ~~each~~ property is associated with a bid range value, the method further comprising the steps of:
 - a. referencing a the property; and
 - b. setting the bid value for the protocol relating to the property equal to ~~the bid a~~ value within the bid range associated with the ~~referenced~~ property when the property is in the enabled state.
5. (currently amended) The method as in claim 4, ~~wherein~~ further comprising the step of setting the one or more properties ~~are set~~ to the enabled or the disabled state by based on signals from a user operating the second computer.
6. (currently amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the arranging step further comprises the step of determining ~~is determined by the value of the bids such that~~ the lowest value bid is the most preferred and the highest value bid is the least preferred.
7. (currently amended) The method as in claim 6, wherein the sequence prescribed manner for parsing is ascending order according to the bid values ~~value of the bids~~.
8. (currently amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the generating step further comprises the steps of:

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- a. referencing a predefined configuration ~~predefined and that is~~ associated with the second computer; and
 - b. setting ~~the~~ a bid equal to a value within one of a plurality of prescribed ranges according to predefined rules in the ~~referenced~~ configuration.
9. (currently amended) The method as in claim 8, wherein the configuration includes a priority list, and the generating step further comprising the step of adjusting the value of the bids falling within a single range according to the priority list specified in the ~~referenced~~ configuration.
10. (currently amended) The method as in claim 8, wherein the ~~prescribed manner for~~ parsing step further comprises the step of determining ~~is determined by~~ one or more conditions associated with the plurality of prescribed ranges such that the bids falling within each of the plurality prescribed ranges are parsed when the associated conditions are satisfied.
11. (original) The method as in claim 10, wherein the ranges include an exclusivity range with an associated condition that if there is at least one bid within the exclusivity range, the bids falling within ranges having lower preference than exclusivity range are not parsed.
12. (original) The method as in claim 10, wherein the ranges include a critical range with an associated condition such that the bids falling within the critical range are parsed before the bids in any other range are parsed.
13. (new) A method for selecting one protocol from among a plurality of protocols to establish communication between a first computer and a second computer, where the first computer has an object and the second computer has an object-handle associated with the object, and where the object-handle identifies the plurality of protocols, the method comprising the steps of:

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- a. defining a plurality of ranges such that each of the ranges represents a priority rule;
 - b. determining the priority rule that applies to each of the plurality of protocols identified in the object-handle based on a configuration for the second computer;
 - b. upon receipt of a signal representing a request to access the object, generating bids having bid values, each of the bids being associated with one of the plurality of protocols identified in the object-handle, such that each of the bid values is in one of the ranges that represents the priority rule that applies to the associated protocol; and
 - c. selecting the one protocol from among the plurality of protocols based on the bids.
14. (new) A method for selecting a communication profile for communication between a server having a target object and a client having an object-handle for the target object, where the object-handle identifies a plurality of communication profiles, the method comprising the steps of:
- a. upon request from the client to access the target object, dynamically generating one or more bid values at the client and independent of the server, each of the one or more bid values being associated with one of the plurality of communication profiles identified in the object handle;
 - b. compiling the bid values in a portfolio associated with the client based on a client configuration having at least one property that relates to the use of a protocol identified in one of the plurality of communication profiles; and
 - c. selecting a communication profile for accessing the target object based on the bid values in the portfolio.

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15. (new) The method as in claim 14 further comprising the steps of receiving signals representing a user setting for the property that relates to the use of the protocol and incorporating the user setting in the client configuration associated with the client.
16. (new) The method as in claim 14 wherein the bid values are based at least in part on a relative efficiency of the protocol in the structure connecting the server and the client.
17. (new) The method as in claim 14 wherein the bid values are based at least in part on user preferences for communication channel characteristics.
18. (new) The method as in claim 14 wherein the bid values are based at least in part on target object constraints.
19. (new) The method as in claim 14 wherein said bid values are based at least in part on privileges to use certain communications channels.
20. (new) The method as in claim 14 wherein said bid values are based at least in part on a client middleware infrastructure's support for certain protocols.

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